(d) the backlog in kilometers with regard to renovation of National Highways in Rajasthan; and

(e) if so, when the above backlog is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) and (b) The allocation of funds for maintenance and repair of National Highways in the country is nearly 40% of the amount required as per norms. The shortfall in funds is reflected in allocation for maintenance and repair which also includes periodic renewal of National Highways to all the States including Rajasthan.

(c) Periodicity is not the only criteria for renewal. It also depends on condition of road.

(d) and (e) Road condition can be improved by measures such as strengthening, widening, improvement of riding quality and periodic renewal. These measures are taken up in phases depending upon condition of roads, inter-se-priority of works and availability of funds.

Four-laning of highways in Uttar Pradesh

1895. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that work on the four-laning of several major highways in Uttar Pradesh has been stalled;

(b) whether it is a fact that NHAI has not been able to secure State Government permission for the proposed 10 metre green belt alongside, which is the reason for non-completion of the projects;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Delhi Western Peripheral Expressway would not have service lanes on both sides, which was initially planned in order to prevent local traffic from spilling over into the expressway; and

(d) whether any steps are being taken by him to resolve both these issues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) and (b) The progress of four laning of National Highways in Uttar Pradesh has been delayed due to condition imposed by Government of Uttar Pradesh for providing a dedicated strip of 10m width along the National Highways for avenue plantation.

(c) Western Peripheral Expressway (WPE) around Delhi does not form the part of the National Highway system. The Haryana State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation (HSIIDC) is the implementing agency on behalf of the Government of Haryana. HSIIDC has intimated that there was no proposal for providing service lanes on either side of WPE initially and as such, there is no provision for service lanes in the project.

(d) This Ministry is making concerted efforts with the Government of Uttar Pradesh to relax the criterion of dedicated strip of 10m width for avenue plantation in order to impart momentum to the major highway works. Since no service lanes were planned initially on either side of this fully access-controlled Expressway, no steps are required to be taken to resolve this issue.